



STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**  
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October 7, 2020

**VIA SHAREPOINT**

The Division of Administrative Law  
1020 Florida Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: *In the Matter of Jacolby Octave*  
Agency Tracking No.: 2019-852

Dear Ms. Duhon:

On behalf of the Louisiana Board of Ethics, please file the attached *Charges* in the referenced matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 225-219-5619, and thank you.

Kindest regards,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Elizabeth Barrouquere  
Staff Paralegal

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jacolby Octave  
2119 Highway 20  
Vacherie, Louisiana 70090  
(via certified mail no. 70191120000179863342)

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**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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**DOCKET NO.**

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**IN THE MATTER OF**

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**JACOLBY OCTAVE**

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**AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2019-852**

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**CHARGES**

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The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on October 2, 2020, to and does hereby file the following charges:

**1.**

The Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department No. 1 (“Department”) is a Louisiana nonprofit corporation that registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State on November 13, 1959. The Department provides fire protection and emergency medical services in Vacherie, Louisiana. The Department is one of four volunteer fire departments located in St. James Parish and is a component unit of the St. James Parish Council for financial reporting purposes. The Department is financially supported by an ad valorem tax that is collected and administered by the Parish, fundraisers, and private donations. The Department is governed by a 12-member board elected by active members (volunteers) with at least one year of membership. Board members serve two-year terms.

**2.**

Jacolby Octave was elected president of the Department Board on March 14, 2016, and subsequently re-elected on January 16, 2017, January 15, 2018, and January 21, 2019 by members of the Board.

3.

Jacolby Octave was removed from the Board on March 18, 2019.

4.

Between February 2017 and January 2019, Jacolby Octave signed and negotiated thirty-seven (37) Department checks from the Department's Accounts at First American Bank ending in No. 4279, totaling \$54,006, which were made payable to himself or cash.

5.

Between February 2017 and January 2019, Jacolby Octave made thirteen (13) electronic debits totaling \$2,353.67 from the Department's Accounts at First American Bank, which were credited to accounts at AT&T and Credit One in Jacolby Octave's name.

6.

Jacolby Octave was not entitled to receive payments from the Department while serving as a Board Member.

7.

La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a) states that no public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than the compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which she is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of her office or position.

8.

La. R.S. 42:1112A states that no public servant shall participate in a transaction in which he has a personal substantial economic interest of which he may be reasonably expected to know involving the governmental entity.

9.

La. R.S. 42:1153B provides with respect to penalties:

Upon a determination that any public employee or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics ... the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion of the public employee or other person, or **impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.**

10.

La. R.S. 42:1155 provides with respect to penalties for illegal gain:

If an investigation conducted pursuant to this Part reveals that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the payment of penalties. **Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic advantage.**

11.

Based on the foregoing facts, Jacolby Octave, while serving as a Board Member for the Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department No. 1, violated La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a) when he received payments totaling \$56,500 from the Department that he was not duly entitled to receive for the performance of his job duties and responsibilities as a Board Member.

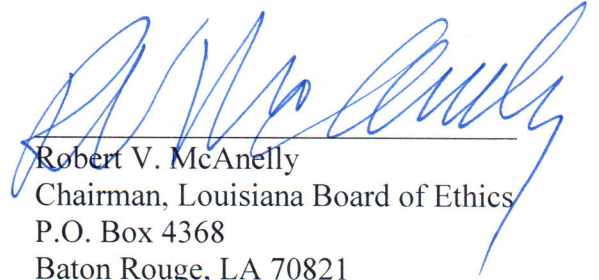
12.

Based on the foregoing facts, Jacolby Octave, while serving as a Board Member for the Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department No. 1, violated La. R.S. 42:1112A, when he signed checks issued to himself, when he knew he had a substantial economic interest in the transactions involving the Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department No 1.

13.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(b)(iv), the Board designates Tracy M. Barker, Suzanne Q. Mooney, and David M. Bordelon as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

**WHEREFORE**, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charge; (b) determine that Jacolby Octave violated La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a) and 42:1112A; and (c) assess an appropriate penalty in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1153; and (d) assess an appropriate penalty in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1155.



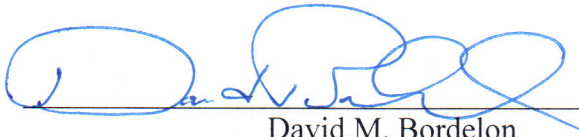
Robert V. McAnelly  
Chairman, Louisiana Board of Ethics  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
Telephone: (225) 219-5600  
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

**CERTIFICATE:**

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent via registered/certified mail, and to the attorney of record via electronic mail and regular mail, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

**RESPONDENT:** Jacolby Octave  
2119 Highway 20  
Vacherie, Louisiana 70090

**ATTORNEY:**

  
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David M. Bordelon  
Trial Attorney